



The First Parish in Needham
Unitarian Universalist
Capital Campaign Newsletter

Fifth Edition (Still Collectible!)

February 2005

Save the Date:
March 4, 2006
Campaign Kickoff Dinner

Building Dialogue:
**Neighborhood Meetings
Start off Strong!**

Neighborhood meetings to discuss building plans and choices have started. Each meeting includes about 8-10 parishioners and member of the Building Design Team and the Capital Campaign committee. The Team members review the choices before us and answer questions. Most importantly, they gather your ideas and comments for consideration in the planning process.

Key themes have emerged from the first few meetings. There is a broad concensus that we need:

- better and sufficient RE space*
- a larger Parish Hall*
- a renovated kitchen*
- better disabled access*
- better infrastructure*

Many good questions have come up. A sampler is on the back of this newsletter, and more Questions and Answers are posted on the church web site: www.uuneedham.org

Helen Lane and Christine Harrington are coordinating the meetings (helen.lane@comcast.net; charrin1@bidmc.harvard.

A Happy Dilemma:
**Two Good Choices
Facing Capital Campaign**

The Building Design & Finance Teams presented two 'finalists' for consideration by the Parish at a special meeting on Jan. 8 --a renovation plan and a new construction plan. Both plans meet our major needs, but differ in cost, layout, and energy efficiency, among other features.

Details of the plans were presented by Carl Franceshi, Building Design Team Chair and David Hansen, Finance Team Chair, and are being discussed during Neighborhood meetings in February and March (see adjacent story). The slide presentation and other related materials are available at the church web site: www.uuneedham.org

What Happens Now?

February & March: Neighborhood Meetings collect parishioner input about the two plans

March 4: Campaign Kickoff Dinner

April: Parish Committee processes input from Neighborhood meetings, advice from Building and Finance Teams and picks a plan to recommend to the congregation

April 30: Congregational meeting to vote on plan recommended by Parish committee

Fall 2006: Capital Campaign fundraising finishes

Summer 2007: Construction begins!

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BUILDING CHOICES AND CAMPAIGN

Q: In the new building or renovation plan, is there classroom size adequate for day care space?

A: *Yes. Day care has been consulted about the size of the rooms.*

Q: Do we have to have the \$\$ pledged? Raised? Before we begin construction?

A: *We will have the pledges made before we begin construction*

Q: How many families in First Parish? And therefore what is range of contributions needed from each family?

A: *We have ~190 pledging units and many friends and alumni who may wish to support the project. There is no expected amount for each family. All will need to stretch and give as much as possible. We have and will need more large donors.*

Q: Parish Hall is 100+ years old. Are there any concerns about destroying this building due to historical/architectural elements? Any legal restrictions about a tear down?

A: *No Parish Hall is not an historical building.*

Q: Will it be possible for the congregation to see an estimate of the relative operating costs between the two options?

A: *The major difference in operating costs will be in heating and maintenance. New construction will be more cost effective in both areas but the amount is difficult to estimate.*

Q: Future space on new building: how much will it cost?

A: *Depends on the number of years and rates of inflation. The current estimate of \$200/Sq. Ft would rise to \$255 over the next five years with an inflation rate of 5%.*

Q: What will happen to the stage?

A: *There will not be a stage in Fuller Hall. However, there is a portable stage that the coffee house uses should we need one at some time.*

Q: Will the sanctuary be changed? Will all of the views be preserved. Will the view out the back of the sanctuary be preserved in the renovated plan

A: *Sanctuary will be unchanged except for new heating, views including out that back window will be unchanged.*

Q: Who decides on what plan is presented?

A: *The final decision will be made by the Parish Committee after advice from the Building Design Team, Finance Team and Capital Campaign Steering Committee, based on what our financial ability is and what the congregations input has been at the neighborhood meetings*

(You can see more Q & A at the church web site: **www.uuneeham.org**)